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December 6, 2005

SEMISE CONVISCION

The Honorable Charles Terreni Chief Clerk and Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina P. O. Drawer 11649 Columbia, South Carolina 29211

**RECEIVED** 

RE: Mrs. Beatrice Weaver's November 25, 2005 Letter

DEC 0 9 2005

Docket No. 2004-219-E

PSC SC DOCKETING DEPT.

Dear Mr. Terreni:

On November 25, 2005, Mrs. Beatrice Weaver wrote you a letter in the above-referenced docket asking the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("the Commission") to order Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. ("PEC") to establish an electric service account in her name at 1253 Harllees Bridge Road, Dillon, S.C., and connect electric service by December 15, 2005. You invited PEC's comments relative to this request.

PEC disconnected electric service to Mrs. Weaver's home four years ago (December 21, 2001) for non-payment of electric bills amounting to \$5,314.34, following a ruling by the Commission in Docket No. 2001-249-E upholding the validity of that bill and PEC's right to collect it as a condition of providing service. The Commission's ruling was upheld on appeal in Dillon County Court of Common Pleas on April 15, 2002. Since that time Mrs. Weaver has made numerous requests to PEC and/or the Commission seeking to get her electric service restored without her having to pay the debt. PEC's position remains, as it has since 2001, that service should not be reconnected until the bill is paid.

Regarding the statement by Mrs. Weaver's local physician as to her need for electricity, it should be noted that Mrs. Weaver does have electricity. She maintains active electric service accounts with PEC for two separately-metered buildings on her property, and PEC and its meter readers have observed on many occasions that customer-owned wiring from at least one of those structures is being used to supply electricity to the main house on a semi-permanent basis.

PEC also wishes to point out that Mrs. Weaver, despite her age and medical problems, is not a low-income customer, nor should her failure to pay the debt in any way imply that she is not financially able to do so. She and/or her corporation (Renaissance International, Inc.) purchased the 8000 square foot house in question and more than 200 acres of property on Harllees Bridge Road with cash in 1994. During the past year and a

half, as she stated in her June 7, 2005 letter to the Commission, she has sought medical treatment at Duke University Medical Center and the Mayo Clinic, and has spent much of 2005 convalescing in Arizona. She is not unable to pay the debt; she simply refuses to do so. Importantly, she has never asserted that she does not have the financial resources to pay the debt owed.

Thus, electric service to Mrs. Weaver's house should not be reenergized until the \$5,314.34 debt for unpaid electric bills at that premise is paid. She is not similarly situated to persons facing disconnection for non-payment because they cannot pay their electric bill. Rather, her service was disconnected 4 years ago because she refuses to pay a debt the Commission found to be completely valid. If I can provide any further information or background on this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at (919) 546-6367.

Sincerely,

Len S. Anthony

Deputy General Counsel – Regulatory Affairs

LSA:gac

David Butler cc:

> Randy Watts (ORS) April Sharpe (ORS) Florence Belser (ORS)

Beatrice Weaver

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